

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/685,126

Applicant(s)

SODINI ET AL.

Examiner

Jose L. Couso

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's election filed 10/29/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16-28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

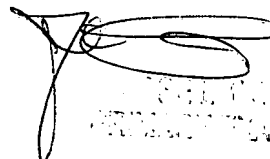
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/14/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOSE L. COUSO
ART UNIT 2624

1. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Michael Nickerson, Reg. No. 33,265 on November 27, 2007, the examiner agreed that claims 27-28 should have been grouped in Group V.

A revised restriction requirement appears hereinbelow.

Election/Restriction

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-4, drawn to offset A/D converters, classified in class 348, subclass 241.
- II. Claims 5 and 6, drawn to clamping a pixel a value, classified in class 348, subclass 222.1.
- III. Claims 7 and 8, drawn to dark current removal, classified in class 348, subclass 243.
- IV. Claims 9-15, drawn to white balance correction, classified in class 348, subclass 223.1.
- V. Claims 16-28, drawn to using histograms in image processing, classified in class 382, subclass 168.
- III. Claim 29, drawn to using a power curve for video display, classified in class 345, subclass 87.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions in Groups I-VI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, the inventions in Groups I-VI have separate utility such as a device for correcting undesirable signal characteristics via offsetting an A/D converter, a device for eliminating pixel defects via clamping a pixel value, a device for eliminating dark current, a device for correcting white balance, a device for correcting luma values via histogram data, and a device for applying a luma correction via a power curve. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Official Action

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Please cancel claims 1-15 and 29.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Nickerson, Reg. No. 33,265 on November 27, 2007.

5. Claims 16-28 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of the record fail to teach or suggest singly and/or in combination a method of optimally utilizing a fixed set of intensity levels of a video display to represent a wide dynamic range data captured by an imager, which provides for determining a target grey value, determining a power curve from the determined target grey value, limiting the determined power curve to a range of minimum and maximum power curves, the range of minimum and maximum power curves corresponding to an original compression curve utilized by the imager, remapping a luma value of each pixel using the limited power curve, determining a minimum luma value BP_{mi} for a frame of image data, creating a histogram from the remapped luma values, determining an ideal black point value BP and an ideal white point value WP from the created histogram and determined minimum luma value, and restretching the image data, using the determined ideal black point value and an ideal white point value, to create new luma values for each pixel as prescribed for in the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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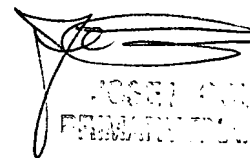
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jose L. Couso whose telephone number is (571) 272-7388. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the USPTO contact Center whose telephone number is (703) 308-4357.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jlc
November 27, 2007



JOSE L. COUSO
PATENT EXAMINER